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In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt
Appomattox, Virginia

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AN EXAMPLE OF COURAGE

Jimmy Foster, a fourteen-year-old boy from Pocatello, Idaho, had long suffered from a congenital kidney disease. Finally he was told that only an operation — which would require a new kidney from his twin brother — would give him a chance to live.

Jimmy's twin brother readily agreed to the operation and the Foster boys and their parents flew to Boston. On November 25th the operation was performed and one of the healthy brother's kidney's was removed and was placed in Jimmy.

At the hospital, five other twins had received transplanted kidneys and all had survived, as Jimmy underwent the knife. However, the transplant in his case did not prove successful. The donated kidney failed to function and an artificial kidney machine made only slight, temporary improvement in Jimmy's condition.

Finally, a few days ago, Jimmy was told that the operation had been a failure. His reply was, "I'm not afraid to die." His mother, equally courageous, said, "I'd do it all over again. I hope others will not be disheartened by this experience." Three days later, Jimmy died.

This is a lesson in courage for all of us, courage exhibited by Jimmy's brother Jerry, by his mother and father, and by himself. Perhaps your real or imaginary troubles will seem mild by comparison — if you think about the ordeal and courage of the Fosters.

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COMING: 1958

In spite of anything you can do about it, it is only a question of time, and very little of that, until 1958 arrives. It will be a critical year for the United States in several ways.

First, with Congress meeting on the 7th of January and with decisions to be made about security, rocket and missile programs, 1958 is a year when momentous decisions will be made in the field of preparedness. Those decisions may affect all of us in some way or another.

The year 1958 will be a crucial one for labor and industry. Labor is going to demand increases and industry, fearing a lull in 1958, is ready to resist those demands with more determination than usual.

Next year will be a critical one for President Eisenhower. Should he suffer another illness, it is widely believed that hewill step down from office. In addition, the year 1958 will be a critical one for both Germany and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Sentiment in Germany is growing that the country should be a neutral country and that this is the sole hope for unification. And with France still weak (although hoping to detonate an atom bomb in 1958), the withdrawal of West Germany from the NATO would be a serious blow for the democracies.

The year 1958 will also see congressional elections in the United States and possibly changes in the President's Cabinet. All in all, then 1958 appears ahead as a turbulent decision year in the history of our country.

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ARMED SERVICES AND PAY

It is reliably reported that the Administration's military pay bill will retain the essential features of the famed Cordiner Committee recommendations. In brief, the committee recommended that pay increases be provided armed service personnel in special and technical classifications.

This was deemed necessary to enable the service to retain a higher percentage of enlisted and technically-educated personnel, now leaving military service at an alarming rate. They are leaving at such a rate as to make it more economical for the country to increase the pay of technicians than to continue to spend great sums of time and money constantly training replacements for those not reenlisting.

The Administration has reportedly abandoned the plan to provide all members of the armed services a six per cent pay increase. But, even though this proposal has been turned aside, some 39 per cent of all service men and women stand to gain pay increases under the Cordiner Committee recommendations.

The cost of the increases is expected to be about $410,000,000 annually, even though the flat increase for all (and retirement increases) are not to be sought from Congress.

We are late in getting around to adopting a well-planned and flexible pay scale, based on merit and qualifications, rather than rank and time served, almost completely.

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Wide bottoms are usually a result of overloading.

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The girl who knows she's cute, is not as cute as she thinks she is.

* * * * * * * * * * *

Now is the time of year when last July's weather doesn't seem so bad.

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Business as usual will not recover the ground lost in the rocket and missile race.

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The world is full of people who could straighten out the international mess if others would listen to them.

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It is time again to renew the New Year Resolutions you made last year but did not keep.

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Philemon. Devotional Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22.

Brothers in Christ

Lesson for December 29, 1957

"BROTHERHOOD" is a word that gets kicked around a lot. There are all sorts of brotherhoods, and most of them are good. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers is a sample of many groups held together by the same kind of work and skill. We can talk of the brotherhood of Americans, or of artists, or of the same vocation in an army. We can speak of the brotherhood of suffering.

Dr. Foreman

"Brothers in Christ," however are closer to one another than even those who have the same father and mother. We could not go into this and show why it is. But let us follow Paul's lead and think how this works. The little note he wrote to Philemon brings together in Christian brotherhood two men who were about as far apart as two men could be; for one of them, Philemon, was a master and Onesimus, the other, was his slave.

Restored

Onesimus was worse than a slave. He had stolen from his master and ran away. Somehow or other, probably in jail, he had run across Paul, and became one of the many whom Paul led to Christ. Now Paul might have said to him:

"Now, Onesimus, you are my Christian brother and Philemon's also his brother; but Paul may have had to do some tall persuading, to make Onesimus see that Philemon was his brother. Brotherhood, in short, as Christians at their best understand it, does not cancel out obligations. If I owe a Christian ten dollars, I can't gaily write it off because it's "all in the family." If I have slandered a fellow-Christian or wronged one in any way, the very fact that we are brothers, so far from excusing me, lays on me a special duty to make all the restitution I possibly can. Let us not go into the New Year, if we can help it, owing any man —except to love one another."

Reconciled

This return of Onesimus, as Paul hoped, would be more than restoration of an absent slave and at least some of the missing money. It would be a reconciliation. (Paul's hopes probably were realized, otherwise one suspects this little letter would have been saved.) Now reconciliation is very difficult, because it involves something in the heart. You can restore all the externals of the old relationship,—the runaway slave can come back, the estranged husband and wife can move into the same apartment, the countries lately fighting can send ambassadors to each other again, and so forth But unless something happens in the hearts of these people, the restoration is going to be something formal at best, galling and intolerable at worst. There has to be forgiveness on at least one side in all human reconciliation; usually two sides. Who knows why Onesimus ran away? If Philemon had been the ideal master, Onesimus might have preferred to stay home. And if we can guess that Onesimus had something to forgive, we know that Philemon had. But brotherhood means love, if it means anything. Brotherhood in Christ means Christlike love.

Refreshed

Paul, as the reader of his letter will notice, asks Philemon to live out his brotherhood,—but not for his sake and that of Onesimus alone. The restoration and reconciliation which Paul prays for, will "refresh the hearts" of a good many people. It is not true that my relations with you and yours with me affect us two alone. A family reconciliation may make a difference far beyond the household. This is a sad world, a weary world. And the weariness comes partly from listening to so much jangling and wrangling. As the bells ring out the Old Year, how wonderful, how refreshing to the heart, if they ring out old quarrels, old resentments! Christian brotherhood is a bell with far-heard overtones of peace.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Washington Notes

AID TO EDUCATION

An educator said that Secretary of Welfare Folsom is supporting a proposal that the Federal Government spend $287,000,000 a year on aid to education. Heavy emphasis would be placed on science and mathematics in elementary and high schools. The plan would provide for about 20,000 scholarships a year, financed by the Federal Government, but administed by the States.

RADIATION CUT

The Atomic Energy Commission announced new standards somewhat reducing maximum radiation dosages which atomic workers may accumulate.

The maximum permissible dosage of radiation has been three-tenths of a rem per week in AEC facilities. (A rem, Roentgen Equivalent Man, is a dose estimated to produce a biological effect equivalent to that produced by one Roentegen of X rays.) This comes to theorically 168 rems over a period of, say, 30 years.

SUPPLY SCOREKEEPER

The Marine Corps is installing electronic computers at key supply depots to keep track of the supply-on-hand of some 250,000 items it stocks. This would prevent overbuying and under-supply, an announcement yesterday declared.

DRIVING LICENSES

A public officials' traffic safety conference called unanimously for stricter driver licensing requirements as part of a sweeping program to curb slaughter on the highways. The conference sponsored by the President's Committee for Traffic Safety, also recommended that safety be taught in the schools from an early age the same way "we teach the Bible in Sunday School."

SCIENTISTS' PAYR AISE

The Civil Service Commission announced pay raises for the 48,000 scientists and engineers on the Federal payroll ranging from $135 to $1,080 a year. This will bring the salary range from $4,098 to $14,835 yearly.

WIRETAP BAN

The Supreme Court has extended the ban on use of wiretap evidence obtained by state law enforcement officers. Under previous decisions by the high tribunal, wiretap evidence obtained by Federal agents had been held inadmissible in Federal Court trials. The unanimous ruling issued extends the ban to State-obtained evidence even though the facts were obtained without participation of Federal agents.

IN CANCER TESTS

The Agriculture Department is using the house fly to test compounds which may inhibit the growth of tumors in humans. Department insect physiologists have discovered during trials in recent months that several anti-cancer compounds act as inhibitors of ovarian growth in female house flies.

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...ewall

...Dec. 23.- I want to wish ...thor and his lovely wife ...readers of The Times-...very Merry Christmas ...and Prosperous New ...

...a large attendance at ...meeting at the home ...Wheeler last Tuesday ...active member was ...all enjoyed the meet-...Mrs. Wheeler ser-...delicious refreshments

...Mrs. Virgil Carson, of ...pent the week-end with ...Lester Carson. Glad ...who has been sick, ...well enough to be here. ...soon be real well.

...Stratton and Miss ...have gone to spend ...with their families in ...Appomattox,

...Mrs. Harry G. Lawson, ...ville will spend the ...her parents, Mr. and ...Mrs. Virgil Burnette.

...D. Bondurant is ...holidays with his par-...Mrs. Wallace Bondu-...

...Mrs. Floyde Weidman ...of Delaware, are here ...

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...Vera

Vera, Dec. 25.- "And the angel said unto them, fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you this day is born in the City of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." Luke 11:9-10.

I do certainly hope that we may all have a nice Christmas, with our loved ones, and no car wrecks!

It's a busy time at the cannery, canning pork and beef. Everybody is busy fixing for Christmas.

The P.-T. A. meeting was held at Vera school on Thursday night, and also a Christmas entertainment was held. The children do certainly enjoy giving gifts to each other the last day before Christmas.

We are sorry to hear of the illness of Miss Odell Webb, and do hope for her a speedy recovery.

I feel sure that all of our readers enjoyed Father Darkleaf's Christmas Story.

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Harvey visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Watson on Saturday night.

Lieut. L. H. Watson is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Watson.

Week-end visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Harvey were Mr. and Mrs. Will Warters, Mr. Jimmie Harvey, Lieut. L. H. Watson, Mrs. William Crews, and Misses Annie and Minnie Crews.

The Christmas program at New Hope Church on Sunday night was entitled, The Blessed Gift.

We wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

About The Home

By Frances Dell

If you want good home grown fruit you must care for plants that are to produce it. Many of us plant a couple of apple trees, a grape vine or two and sit back and wait for our harvest. This is idle dreaming.

You must know what needs doing to your fruit trees and when to do it. This is even more important when growing fruit than with vegetable farming. If you make a mistake with vegetables, you start all over next year anyway. Fruit trees are bought and planted to give pleasure year after year.

Inform yourself before you plant of information is your state agricultural experiment station. Here you can learn the varieties best adapted to your particular locality, the spray schedule to follow and kind of information you may need.

Almost all fruits grow well on fertile, loamy soil that is well drained. They need plenty of sunshine.

Make sure you get vigorous healthy planting stock of desirable age to plant. Never buy older stock. This old stock is sometimes offered to the public as "bearing age." This does not pay.

Unpack plant shipments as soon as they arrive from the nursery. If the plants are at all dry, soak the roots in water for a few hours before planting.

Prepare the ground thoroughly for planting. The holes should be of ample size to permit spreading the roots without cramping. Set plants at the recommended depth. It is necessary to stake most fruit trees for a time after planting.

GUARD PLEADS INNOCENT

Yokosuka, Japan.- Marine Private 1.-c Don B. Stansell, of Little Rock, Ark., pleaded innocent to court-martial charges he struck three prisoners in the United States naval brig at Sasebo, Japan.

He appeared before a special court-martial board headed by Lieut. Col. W. E. Sperling.

Shoplifters Had Nerve

Tulsa, Okla.- Officials of a Tulsa department store have seen a lot of audacious shoplifters, but nothing like two young women recently arrested.

They took a brief case from one floor and tried to get a $4 refund on it from a clerk on another floor. They were charged with deceit.

Democracy Defined

A democracy is a land where you can find artists' drawings of our secret missiles in one of the illustrated magazines. —Rocky Mount, N. C. Telegram.

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NEED FOR WOOD TO INCREASE

America's future need for wood will be much greater than it is now because of population increases and the rise in the standard of living.

Agricultural economists at VPI say the need may be from 17 to 29% greater by 1975, and 47 to 80% greater by the year 2000. The upper estimate is based on the assumption that wood will keep its place as a source of structural material, while the lower estimate assumes a reduction in the relative use of wood.

It is doubtful, the economists say, that there will be enough timber, at the current rate of growth, to meet future demands. As the virgin stands of western softwoods are cut, the southern states with their high growth capacity will have to assume an increasing share of the cut. This points to future supply problems and increased timber values. Better market opportunities and greater incentives for intensive management of forests are in the picture.

Use of wood in this country is at an all-time high. Annual production of pulpwood in the South has more than doubled what it was in 1946. The pine harvest has climbed from 7,600,000 cords to 17,400,000, and the volume of hardwood has risen from 1,200,000 cords to 2,300,000. The rapid growth of the pulp and paper industry in the South is based upon several favorable factors: nearness to markets, rapid tree growth; supplies of labor and year-long woods work; good logging conditions; availability of water, chemicals, and power; and excellent transportation facilities.

A spectacular recent development has been the increase in the puping of residues from sawmills, veneer plants, and other wood-manufacturing industries. This material was formerly burned as waste or used for fuel.

Use of hardwood pulpwood is expanding because of increased competition and the development of suitable pulping processes for hardwoods. About 356,500 cords of hardwood pulpwood were produced in Virginia in 1956, an increase of nearly 25% over the year before.

Little change has occurred in the South in total lumber production since 1940. However, the softwood cut has dropped to around 65% of the total lumber cut and the hardwood lumber has increased to around 35% of the total. In the past seven years the wholesale price indexes for lumber have been relatively stable. From 1926 to 1957, however, wholesale lumber prices increased 279%, climbing from an index of 33.2 in 1925 to 125.8 in 1957.

KNOW THE WEATHER

By E. H. Sims

What is meant by the "anvil top" of a thunderhead? In which direction does this top move?

Thunderheads, which ocerr so often in summer skies, sometimes rise to 50,000 feet in our latitude and are the most spectacular of clouds. They level off at the very top, producing a flat-topped "anvil."

This anvil spreads forward: that is, it moves out ahead of the path of the storm cloud, providing a directional signal to those who can observe it high above. Often, however, it cannot be seen except at great distance because of the low-hanging line squall moving ahead of the thunderhead near the ground, obscuring view.

The anvil top, as it spreads out, produces cirrus denus cloud, or what is often called false cirrus, because it does not carry the meaning of normal cirrus formations. At the anvil top of a thunderhead, the temperature is likely to be 50 degrees below zero.

IN FASHION NOW

The keynote of fashion today is not just how smart-looking or becoming a certain style erend is but equally important is comfort and ease.

The jersey dress, tweed suit, and coat that goes - with-everything are important factors in every woman's fashion picture.

The crepe shirtwaist dress has come back and is one of the popular casuals of the season. It often has its own huge-knit, great sweater of the same color.

Softly pleated skirts of wool plaid are popular campus fare. They are seen as part of a suit or as the skirt style of a shirtwaist dress.

The dress with a jacket is favored by a great many women, who feel they can't wear suits. Contrasting material is new, such as a jersey dress with a tweed jacket.

A short checked reefer or one made of flannel makes a wonderful car coat. These coats have a young look but are as good on grandmother as on a teen-ager.

Thirteen thousand employees in the Virginia coal industry produced 21,849,115 tons of coal during 1955 and were paid in wages and salaries $44,368,427, according to the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce.

40 MILLION STILL WITHOUT POLIO PROTECTION

At least 40,000,000 Americans in the age-group most susceptible to polio haven't even received their first shot of vaccine, reports Dr. Mack I. Shanholtz, State Health Commissioner.

"Vaccinations against paraiytic polio have slowed down to the danger point," he said, "and a sense of false security has arisen because of the dramatic drop in polio cases this year." Other reasons for the virtual standstill of the polio vaccination program, he said, include the feeling of safety from polio that traditionally occurs each fall, and the diversion of attention from polio shots to Asian flu shots.

It takes eight months to acquire maximum protection through three properly-spaced shots of the Salk vaccine. Now is the time to start getting this protection if it is to be complete by next year's polio season. It is time now also to get third shots if due, and avoid the "rush" next spring.

Those who wait until spring will not only contribute to the vaccine supply problem but will be taking a chance with themselves and their families by allowing another polio season to approach without acquiring the desirable protection.

Virginia's tourist business is big: There are approximately 34,600 rooms available for its guests, according to the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce.

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